

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains six subchapters of the study. They are background, problem statement, objective, significance, scope and limitation, and definition of terms. They will be explained in detail below.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Indonesia is a country that has many local languages. The latest survey says that there have been six hundred and sixty eight local languages found in Indonesia (Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan 2018). Those local languages spread throughout Indonesian territory with Papua; three hundreds and ninety five languages, Maluku; seventy languages, East Nusa Tenggara; sixty nine languages, West Nusa Tenggara; eleven languages, Sulawesi; fifty eight languages, Kalimantan; fifty seven languages, Java and Bali; ten languages, and Sumatera; twenty six languages.

Local languages that exist in Indonesia are classified as Papuan languages and Austronesian languages. Papuan languages are mostly found in Papua, East Nusa Tenggara particularly in Alor regency and Timor Island (Bunak language) and some of Maluku languages such as Oirata language. Austronesian languages are mostly found in Sumatera, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Bali and Java, East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara and Maluku. In East Nusa Tenggara, the local languages spread throughout all the islands. In Timor island, there are some local languages such as Helong language, Uab Meto language, Bunak language, Tetun

language, and Kemak language. Among those languages that live in Timor island, Kemak language is identified as one of those local languages that is widely spoken by Kemak people.

Kemak or also known as Ema language is one of the four local languages spoken in Belu regency, especially in Tasifeto Timur and Kakuluk Mesak subdistricts (see appendix 2). Kemak language is not only spoken in Belu regency, but also spoken in Timor Leste, particularly in Bobonaro municipality. Kemak language in Belu regency borders with Tetun Terik language while Kemak language in Bobonaro, Timor Leste borders with Bekais language, Bunak language, Mambae language, and Tokodede language (see appendix 1). The speakers of Kemak language reach 72.000 (2010 census). Kemak language has some dialects, they are Kemak Marobo, Kemak Atsabe, Kemak Hauba, Kemak Leolima, Kemak Kailaku, Kemak Leimea, Kemak Atabae and Kemak Leosibe. Actually those eight kinds of Kemak dialects are found in Timor Leste, but two of those kinds of Kemak dialects are found in Belu regency i.e. Kemak Leimea and Kemak Leolima. Those two kinds of Kemak dialect are known as Kemak Belu. Kemak Leimea and Kemak Leolima in Belu regency were brought by the ancestors of Kemak people in Timor Leste hundred years ago. Kemak language is used by Kemak people to communicate in their daily lives and is used when there are traditional ceremonies.

Kemak language has been studied by some researchers. So far, there have been four researchers studying about Kemak language. Stevens is the first researcher who studied about Kemak language. His research was done in 1961, but the result of his research was just published on the *Anthropological Linguistic*

Journal in 1967. As the first researcher who studied about Kemak language, Stevens listed two hundreds vocabulary of Kemak language (Swadesh list). From that list, he stated that Kemak language was classified as an Austronesian language. The second researcher who studied about Kemak language is Mandaru et al. in 1998. Mandaru found some linguistic aspects of Kemak language such as Morphology and Syntax. Beside that, this research also talked about phonology. The result of this research revealed that Kemak language has canonical order SVO (Subject-Verb-Object). In 1999, Sadnyana et al. came as the third researcher who studied about Kemak language. By carrying out his research, he found out some linguistic aspects such as phonolgy, morphology and syntax. The last researcher who studied about Kemak language is Budiarta. He studied about Kemak language for three times with different topics. In 2013, for his dissertation, he studied Kemak language under the title “Tipologi Sintaksis Bahasa Kemak”. He continued studying about Kemak language in 2015 with the title “Konstruksi Kausatif Analitik Bahasa Kemak”, and he studied again Kemak language in 2016. The title of his last study is “Perilaku Subjek Dalam Bahasa Kemak Kabupaten Belu Nusa Tenggara Timur”.

Having presented several researches that have been undertaken on Kemak language which studied some aspects of Kemak language, the writer wants to present some reasons that trigger the writer to conduct a study on Kemak language. The first reason that triggers the writer is the writer wants to document the language. As a native speaker of Kemak language, the writer thinks that it is a call to maintain the existence of Kemak language by documenting it. It should be a must for the native speakers of a local language to conserve their own language.

Inspired from the seven studies conducted by Stevens (1967), Mandaru et al. (1998), Sadnyana et al. (1999), and Budiarta (2013, 2015, and 2016) that have been explained by the writer in the previous paragraph, the writer thinks that the writer will be the next researcher studying about Kemak language.

The second reason is that the writer thinks it is interesting to study Kemak language because when the writer speaks Kemak language in her daily life, the writer finds some phenomena existing in Kemak language. One of those phenomena is compounding. The writer finds that the process of forming compound word in Kemak language is by combining two words whether from different category or the same category, for example the word *matamai* 'tomorrow' is structured by combining the verb *mata* 'wake' and the verb *mai* 'come'. The word *ailaran* which means 'forest' is formed by combining the noun *ai* 'tree' and the preposition *laran* 'in'. Another example that shows the process of structuring compound in Kemak language is *uarmatan* 'chest'. It is formed by combining the noun *uar* 'heart' and the noun '*matan*' 'center'.

Besides, finding out that Kemak language is interesting to be studied, this last reason will be one of the reasons that triggers the writer to carry out this research on Kemak language. Seen from the study done by Mandaru (1998) and Sadnyana (1999) who also talked about compound in their studies that will be reviewed in the next chapter, this study intends to complete those studies. The first is about the study of Mandaru et al. in 1998. Mandaru only gave three examples of compound words found in Kemak language. This study about compound words was just limited to how to combine words to state quantity. Then, Sadnyana et al. (1999) presented his study which also talked about compound. He completed the

previous study done by Mandaru by giving more examples about compound that was not just limited to the quantity like what Mandaru did but Sadnyana did not describe or identify the elements that form those compound words and did not classify them into types of compound words. Therefore, this study is presented with the intention that will complete the previous studies done by Mandaru and Sadnyana by describing the structure and finding out the types of compound words in Kemak language.

Based on the reasons and the explanation above, the writer is interested to conduct a research on Kemak language under the title **“The Structure and The Types of Compound Words in Marobo Dialect of Kemak Language”**. The writer intends to describe the structure of compound words and find out the types of compound words in Marobo dialect of Kemak language. The topic is specified in the problem statement below.

## **1.2. Problem Statement**

Based on the background above, the problems that would be answered in this research are formulated in the following questions:

1. What word class does construct compound words in Marobo dialect of Kemak language?
2. What are the types of compound words found in Marobo dialect of Kemak language?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statements stated before, this study aims at describing the following things.

1. The structure of compound words in Marobo dialect of Kemak language.
2. The types of compound words in Marobo dialect of Kemak language.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study will academically and practically bring significance. It will be explained below.

#### **1.4.1 Academic Significance**

This study beneficially gives some academic significances as stated below.

1. This study is presented to complete the two previous studies done by Mandaru et al. In 1998 and Sadnyana et al. In 1999 by giving the structure and the types of compound words found in Kemak language.
2. This study can also enrich linguistic research.
3. The result of this study can add the stock of linguistic study about Kemak Language, especially about the structure and the types of compound words in Marobo dialect of Kemak language.
4. This study becomes a scientific reference for the coming linguistic researchers who want to study about Kemak language whether with the same topic or different one.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Significance**

Beside academic significance, this study also brings practical significance as explained in the following.

1. Kemak speakers, especially Marobo dialect speakers will be informed about the linguistic features of their language, especially on the structure and the types of compound words.
2. By conducting this study, the writer is helped in how to conduct and report a linguistic research, especially the structure and the types of compound words in Marobo dialect of Kemak language.
3. This study can increase the writer's skills and knowledge about linguistics and Kemak language.
4. English department students will be informed about linguistic features of Kemak language, one of the local languages in East Nusa Tenggara Province.
5. It is hoped that this study will trigger other researchers who are interested in studying local languages to study Kemak language, whether with the same topic or different one.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This is a linguistic study. McIntosh (2013: 902) says that linguistics is the scientific study of the structure and the development of language. Structure of language refers to the grammatical aspect of language covering phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. This study focuses on Morphology, especially in compound. Compound has some types, they are compound bilingualism, compound predicate, compound sentence, compound subject, and compound word. This study focuses on compound words, especially in describing the structure and finding out the types of compound words in Marobo dialect of Kemak language.

## 1.6 Definition of Terms

There are some terms used in this study. These terms are defined in order to assist the readers in understanding the study as a whole. The terms that should be defined in this study are as follows:

### 1. Structure

Structure is the way in which roots, bases or stems are combined with each other to form complex lexeme.

### 2. Type

Type is an abstract category or class of linguistic item or unit, as distinct from actual occurrences in speech or writing.

(<https://www.lexico.com/definition/type>)

### 3. Compound

Compound is a complex lexeme that can be thought of as consisting of two or more base lexemes (Haspelmath, 2002: 85). In the simplest case, a compound consists of two lexemes that are joined together.

### 4. Kemak Language

Kemak or Ema is an Austronesian language. It is one of the local languages spoken in Timor island. In the western part of Timor island, Kemak language is spoken in Belu regency, particularly in Tasifeto Timur and Kakuluk Mesak subdistricts while in the eastern part of Timor island or known as Timor Leste, Kemak language is spoken in Bobonaro municipality. The speakers of Kemak language reach 72.000 (2010 census). Kemak language has some dialects, they are Marobo, Hauba, Leosibe, Leolima, Leimea, Atsabe, Atabae, and Kailaku.

## 5. Marobo Dialect

Marobo is the name of a subdistrict of Bobonaro Municipality, Timor Leste. Because Kemak people who live in this place speak Kemak language that is quite different from other places, this Marobo becomes a dialect of Kemak language. The differences between Kemak Marobo and other dialects rely on the accent and the vocabulary.